

A

# REVIEW

## OF THE

# STATE

## OF THE

# BRITISH NATION.

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Saturday, December 29. 1711.

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**W**E Have now liv'd to see what has been long fear'd, the Foundation of the *Dissenters* Ruin laid ; who shall finish the Work we know not, *some of their own Friends*, I doubt, however they may think it improbable : Had any one presum'd some few Years ago to have said to some Persons now alive, *Gentlemen*, you that are so warm now in behalf of the *Dissenters*, you who so Zealously espouse their Interest, now it suits with your own, *shall be the Men who shall be the first to hold up your Hands against them, when your own private Interest looks another Way, and when you think by sacrificing them, you can form your private*

*Ends ; Would not these Men, with Hissel the Syrian, have flown in the Man's Face that should have said so, with the Old Words, What, do you take us for Dogs ?*

Yet now this Thing is done, and by these very Men too — And what is it for ? Let us Examine the Price for which the *Dissenters* are thus Sold, and whether it will answer the End of the Party ? And not to speak of the Persons, or Person, rather Cagell'd, are we not sold for a *Marguerita*, for an Old Song, for a Flag of a Party, to strengthen the Measures taken against the general Peace of Europe, and of this Nation ? Some People may see now, the Fruit of their Vi-

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gorous Opposition of a Treaty, the Return is too just upon them ; since you will have the War carried on right or wrong, you shall have it at the Price of your own Destruction ; you shall buy War at the Price of your Peace, and your Liberty, not for Now only, but to the End of many Ages ; and which is worse, you shall pay the Price, and yet never gain the Bargain—.

Here I meet with a faint Opposition from some poor easie People— *Come, come, We hope it is not so bad as you speak of ; they tell us there are several good Things in the Bill, and the Toleration is confirm'd by it ; We hope we are not in a worse Condition than we were in before, and we cannot believe it can be any hurt to us, because of the Honest Men that did it, who we trusted in, and were always our Friends.*

I could say much to this, but I waive it ; I am sensible the Persons are Self-Condema'n'd, and if it were undone, would run any Risk, rather than do so rough an Action, by which their Interest is broken, and their Friends ruin'd.

But will it rest here ? Will the Party, who contented themselves with this Condition, because they could get no other now, content themselves never to seek any other ?—Let their former Conduct in Ch. II. Time, witness for them, when the Sacrament of the Church was extended to every License for an Ale-House, and was in a good Measure, prepared to be the Test of Voting for all City and Parish Offices, and at last, for Members of Parliament— One Step after another — And the Honest Men that are so easie under this, may, in Time, have more Exercise for their Patience, and in this Posture we may leave them ; only I must not part with them, without reminding some of them, what they must be stupid who cannot see, viz. That the Crime of this Generation is read in their Punishment, viz. That they who have always Maltreated, Neglected, and Ungratefully serv'd those, who they have openly acknowledg'd, have both said and suffer'd for them, and who have been Ruin'd and Undone for doing it ; even from the Sufferings of the

Great *Delaune*, to those of the little and contemptible *D. F.*—have been now lost, without one to open a Mouth in their behalf ; not one of the Hackney Scriblers, in their whole Sett of those who Vomit daily the ill Digesture of their Rage in other Cases, has drawn a Pen in their Defence ;—So, Righteous Heaven has thought, by a just Retribution, to Treat them ; and were it not for the Innocent who suffer with them, and Posterity who must suffer after them, not a Word ought to be spoke for them— As for the Treatment I meet with from some of them, for speaking Impartially my Thoughts in the Affair of Peace and War, the Reproaches, the foul Language, the Slanders, the base ungrateful Treatment, even from those who formerly have own'd I have serv'd them and their Interest— It merits no Regard, no Concern, much less any Answer ; I shall only give them the Words of dying *Zechariah* the Son of *Jehojada*, whom the degenerate Sons of *Judah* stoned to Death, after all the Kindness they had receiv'd from his Father, barely for opposing the Torrent of their Rebellion against God ; 2. *Chron.* 24. and the last Clause of the 22d. Verse, viz. *The Lord look upon it, and require it.*

It is Time now to return to the Affairs Abroad : In spite of new-purchas'd Party Alliance, in the midst of infinite Railery and Confusion of Language, the Queen has, pursuant to her Resolution of fixing a Treaty, appointed the Place, sent her Plenipotentiaries, and the Time for the Congress draws nigh.

Some Things I cannot but observe here, for the Rectifying our Thoughts on this Subject.

1. I hear no body object against, or suspect the Persons sent over ; the Bishop of *Bristol*, every one knows, is a Person so capable, so acquainted with the Interests of *Europe*, so long Experienc'd in Foreign Affairs, and so well aware of the Artifices of *France* ; no rash intemperate Man, of no

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October Principles, that I hear no-body object against him, or afraid he will be bya's'd in this great Affair: The Earl of *Strafford* obtain'd in King *William's* Time, the like Character of an able Minister, and both of these were entrusted, to my Knowledge, by the King, and acquitted themselves to his Majesty's Satisfaction, on very Important Occasions.

Now mark, Gentlemen, the use I make of it, for I am writing no Panegyricks upon Persons—if these Men act contrary to the Nation's Interest, contrary to their Duty, it must be allow'd they shall not *play the Fool for want of Wit*; they shall never be allow'd to plead, *the French over-reach'd them*: If they give up any Thing to King *Philip*, or to the King of *France*, it cannot be for want of Knowledge of Things, and therefore we may expect good Reasons for what they do; and if they cannot defend it, let the Parliament and them alone, to make that out hereafter.

The Arguments for a Treaty have been too strong, for all the Sons of Clamour to Answer; the very Emperor himself, as Foreign Advices tell us, and all the Princes who seem'd to stand out from it, when they come to nearer Views of Things, begin to stagger in their *Unalterables*, and in their *Resolutions not to Treat*; and the general Error, that the 7 Proposals were the Foot of the Treaty, which had possess'd the Heads of almost all the Confederates, being detected, they write from Abroad, that it is not doubted but the Treaty will be Universal; and indeed, the same Excuse, that the Emperor did not refuse absolutely to Treat, but to Treat on the Foot of the Preliminaries, dies in this, and he cannot refuse to Treat now, without meet Obstinacy, without Reason.

I must confess, to me it seems Ridiculous, to think, and I have often wonder'd, to see a Mistake of such a kind should spread so far, viz. That the Treaty was to be begun upon the Foot of these Proposals, as Preliminaries: the Case seems now quite alter'd, and her Majesty having declar'd, That she

has no other Design by a Treaty, but to see if France will comply with Reason, and to procure a full Satisfaction to all her Allies, and that, IF NOT, the War may be carried on with Vigour—The Case is quite alter'd, and we have Reason to hope, that the Sincerity of France shall be fully try'd by this Treaty; That fair, reasonable Conditions shall be offer'd him, with which, if he will not comply, he must try it out.

What Ground there has been from all this to believe, that we resolve to give *Spain* and the *Indies* entirely, to the French, or to the House of *Bourbonne*, I protest I cannot see, nor can I believe, that it is in the Thoughts of our Government to do so—And if ever that shall be offer'd by our Plenipotentiaries, I am sure I shall be the first to complain.

But who are there among us, who, if we can obtain by a Treaty, all that may be had by Fighting, would not much rather it were so done? And seeing a Partition of the *Spanish* Monarchy has been the Substance of every Treaty past, and must be the End of this, why, if it can be done to a general Satisfaction, should we not be willing to have it done without Blood?

I see none but a Set of Furies among us, but what would willingly give *Philip V.* something to be rid of him— I see none but the same Furies, that are for giving the whole *Spanish* Monarchy, undivided and entire, to the Emperor, tho' we had it—The Treaty of *Ghertrudenberg* would not have done it, no, not to the King of *Spain*; I verily believe, France, if he sees the Confederates Unanimous, will quit *Spain* and the *Indies*, for a Reasonable Allotment to his Grandson— And I verily believe that Allotment may be made, without Prejudice to the Allies, and make the rest with less Danger, be given to the Emperor; and this is my View of the Treaty, without any Respect to whom I please, or whom I offend.

I have one Thing to add, viz. That, I think, in such a Partition, some regard may be

be had to US, who have born the Brunt of the War, and Britain ought not to be the only Nation who are to get nothing by the Peace; of which I shall say more in my next.

## Advertisement for the OBSERVATOR.

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was afraid to come nearer his Teeth, and by his incessant Noise, endeavour'd, if possible to provoke him — The Mastiff, turning about, look'd at him with Disdain, and finding him not worth his Anger, tho' he could have torn him in pieces at one Gripe, lifted up his Leg, piss'd upon him, and went in-a-doors to be out of his Noise

APPLICA VESTEM.

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